

## PART 3 : 'Tall' Soden Stories through the Centuries

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USA/IRL The Sodens of California, USA

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## 'TALL' SODEN STORIES 1

### AUSTRALIA, NSW

SODENS HOTEL, Albury, NSW

1861

James Soden, [1861 - 1944 ] of Albury,NSW

Hotel Proprietor of 'Soden's Hotel Australia'

PO Box 3038,Albury, NSW 2640

1894 - 1944

Another interesting Soden story is that of James Soden, born in Ireland in 1860, probably in Mohill area and his life and successful business career in Albury, NSW , Australia.

Albury lies between Sydney and Melbourne in Eastern Australia. When and how James got there is not known but he did serve his time there as the phrase goes and worked his way up through all facets of the hotel hospitality business. It seems this was in his blood and so no one was surprised when he purchased the 'Old Building' as it was known, renovated it increasing the number of rooms from 15 to 60. At the beginning of the 20th century the hotel was ideally placed for those aficionados of horse racing to visit the Melbourne Cup . James Soden added on fine stables to cater for the high quality race horses that would be kept there as they passed through the area to the races.

The biggest names in Australian Horse Racing both horses, owners, trainers and jockeys stayed at Sodens during these year. The horses stabled there were Melbourne Cup Winners such as

1909 Prince Foot

1912 Piastre

1925 Windbag

1928 Statesman

1930 Pharlapp

1932/4 Peter Pan

1947 Hiraji

1949 Foxami

1951 Delta

The hotel was also very popular with commercial travellers, shopkeepers and business people who came to inspect goods and place their orders. By all accounts James Soden ran 'a tight shop', never lowering the price of beer and maintaining a very high service standard.

James Soden died in 1944 aged 83 years at which point the hotel was put into the hands of George Carter who had started with the Sodens in 1907 as an apprentice. He ran it until 1966. He retired in 1968 and the hotel is still going strong. The stables are gone though the hotel caters for many events locally .

[Source: Fiona McVitty, Ballinlee, Co. Longford & Roberta Soden Machnik, Montreal, Canada]

&

<http://www.sodens.com.au/History2.html>

[2006]

18th May, 1940

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## UNITED KINGDOM

### RAF Hero

18th May, 1940

UK/ Flight Lieutenant Ian Scovil Soden shot down over Arras, France

18th May, 1940 – June, 1940

On this day because of his heroic spontaneous action Flight Lieutenant Ian Scovil Soden earned the award of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) from His Majesty the King, George VI.

Flt.Lt. Soden in the last three days of his life was engaged in numerous attacks on German enemy aircraft. He personally shot down 5 enemy aircraft and possibly 2 more, and his flight squadron shot down 7. On one occasion when his aerodrome was being attacked he ran to his plane, boarded it and took off through the smoke and past delayed action bombs into the sky and was never seen again. His plane crashed near Arras in NW France.

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## IRELAND/

### FREE MASON SODENS IN IRELAND

22nd December, 1779

1st Free Mason Lodge in Mohill, Co. Leitrim was founded by Henry Soden of Hill Street, Mohill but a number of Sodens from the Church of Ireland community belonged at one time or another to the Free Mason Movement in several towns.

The earliest on record was Thomas Soden of Sligo, a grandnephew of the first Thomas Soden of Grange, 1594-1705. He was enrolled in Lodge 530 in Sligo on 22nd December, 1779. This Lodge was cancelled in 1813.

James Soden enrolled as a member in Sligo 989, this Lodge closed though in 1835.

Edmund Soden joined Lodge 854 in Carrick-on-Shannon and in 1889

John Henry Soden joined Lodge 76 in Longford.

It was John Soden of Hill Street, Mohill who founded the 1st Free Mason Lodge, Lodge 495, in Mohill, this.

[Source: Ms. Alex Ward, Curator, Grand Lodge Masons of Ireland, 17, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.]

Free Masons in Ireland -

Ms. Alex Ward, Grand Lodge of A.F. & A. Masons of Ireland, Molesworth St., Dublin 2., 20th February, 1998

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## USA/ TEXAS

### THE BATTLE OF THE SABINE PASS 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1863

In his book 'Times to Remember' Wayne Salisbury recounts how, William Soden of Oregon, was taken prisoner by the Confederacy in Texas during the American Civil, 1861-65. While prisoner William had to visit the death bed of a sick relative. Being a member of his local Masonic lodge, he approached one of the sentries, whom he suspected of being a Mason, and got his ok to leave for a few days and visit his family member. The agreement for his punctual return for a few days had to be adhered to. He returned within his time allowance.

It is interesting to note that he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Sabine Pass, at which the Confederates successfully prevented the Union side from getting Texas. The Confederate leader at this engagement was Dick Dowling from Tuam in Co. Galway, Ireland. He owned a few pubs in Houston and at the outbreak of the Civil War he got command of the Davis Guard which with its expert use of artillery sank a number of Union ships and took over 350 prisoners.

Will Soden was one of them. William married Harriett Louisa Hayes , and set up his own carriage making shop at which trade he was qualified. He served as a town clerk from 1888 to 1906 . He then resettled in Edgeley , North Dakota at the age of seventy , to be near his two daughters. William died on 31st May , 1917 at 79 years of age as the result of a stroke. Harriett, or 'Hattie' as she was known , died on 25th August , 1917. They were married for 51 years.

( Source: Times to Remember by Wayne Salisbury, 1998)

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#### IRELAND/

Robert Soden, 1591 – 1st Soden mentioned officially on the island of Ireland

ROBERT SODEN (1591-1643??)

Robert Soden (Sodden) was born in Bourton-on-Dunsmore, Warwickshire in 1591, the son of Robert Soden, born 1556, grandson of Gregory Soden, great-grandson of Thomas Soden. He is first recorded in Ireland in the company of Lt.Col. Henry Smithwicke in 1651 as a private soldier and later mentioned in the Decree of Innocents , the Claims of Adventurers and the 1689 Will of his brother, Thomas Soden.

According to the pedigree of Rosemary Ffolliott, Robert through his son , James , is the progenitor of the Soden family , though at this time there is a Thomas Soden Junior recorded in the Hearth Money Rolls of 1665 for Sligo. On the other hand, Ronald Soden in his work believes Robert died in Warwickshire in 1643, though he says little is known about the movements of the Sodens of Bourton at this time as a result of the Civil War.

There is no recorded burial for Robert in Ireland. However in the year 1691, Elizabeth Soden is born to Robert and Jeane in Templemore , Derry City. The presence of a Robert may well indicate the grandson or grandnephew of Robert Senior, especially as this name occurs in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh later in 1732.

Source -

Robert Soden, 1594 –

Council Book of Youghal, Cork

Index of the Decree of Innocents, 1651, VIII, page 560

Hearth Money Rolls, Sligo, 1665

Betham Extracts, National Archive, Dublin

1689 Betham Abstract Page 205 in the GO, Dublin

Ulster's Office

Wills Old Serves

volume 4, 90/226, O-Y

Chester Refugees 1689

The Grove Extracts by Tenison Grove in the National Archives of Ireland,  
1651

Penders Census for 1659

Pedigree of the Genealogical Office, Dublin by Rosemary ffolliott 1972

1689 Grove Abstract ,

National Archives, Dublin

Pre(rogative) Will 22 Jan(uary) 1689 20 Aug(ust) 1699

1689 Betham Abstract of Wills

GO. MS.227, pp. 168/169

GO. MS. 227

Pages 168-9

ROBERT SODEN or SODDEN

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BRANDY IMPORTER or SMUGGLER?

April, 1772

In the Abstracts of Tenison Grove Edward Soden of Sligo is recorded as an importer of Brandy. It seems to have been shipped to Mullaghmore,, Co.

Sligo and brought to Sligo town and even inland to Cootehill or Virginia , Co. Cavan where there is resident another Edward Soden.

1772 Grove Abstract 2/434/....

Executive Presentments

Nos. 1055,1056,1057 3 Exan 25 bunch? 27 bunch?

13 April 1772 Impor(ter) Edward Soden on a ship loading brandy at Mullaghmore Bay,Co(nty).Sligo

Ch(ancery) Rejoinder & D(e)p(osi)t(ion). Feb 1627

Mr.Smith & Bevil Predeaux

Source -

Edmund Soden - 1772 Grove Abstract 2/434/....

Executive Presentments

Nos. 1055,1056,1057 3 Exan 25 bunch? 27 bunch?

13 April 1772

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HITLER, von DONITZ, SODEN and SHARP

The pain and sufferings Hitler and the Germans brought upon the world in World War II were tragic and inhumane, but with the death of Hitler, Admiral von Donitz was appointed his successor. He was considered a safe pair of hands, a Navy man, not a member of the Nazi Party. However after surrender at the Nuremberg trial the Allies attempted to indict him for war crimes in view of the German Navy's treatment of prisoners. However this was unsuccessful as the American Rear Admiral Nimitz had to admit that the US Navy practised a similar policy in the Pacific.

The Laconia , Robert Sharp and Flight Lieutenant Soden

The Laconia Order (Der Lakonien Befehl) was issued by Admiral von Donitz after the prisoner of war ship SS Laconia was sunk off the coast of West Africa. The Laconia was under the command of Captain Robert Sharp and was bringing 1500 Italian prisoners of war with 300 Polish guards and 25 aircraft to a prisoner of war camp. They were torpedoed and sunk by U-156 . When the German U-boat commander surfaced and discovered they were Italian prisoners of war , he proceeded to form plans to bring them safely to land. He



radioed for assistance and other U-boats from the wolf pack Eisbar came to the rescue. There are dramatic pictures showing the prisoners standing on the deck of the U-boat as it heads for the West African coast. The U-boat and lifeboats were spotted by an American flying fortress and this bomber was ordered to attack the submarine by the American Commander Ralph Richardson. The plane attacked, the U-boats dived and the prisoners jumped into the sea. Some drowned, others were eaten by the sharks and the rest were picked up by nearby ships. One of the pilots of the 25 aircraft was flight Lieutenant Graham Flewelling Soden. How he died is not known. He was returning to Britain after a campaign in Iraq. The captain of the Laconia that day was Robert Sharp, the same man who captained the S.S. Lancastria on 17th June, 1940 at Dunkirk.

After the Laconia incident von Donitz ordered all German Navy units to never rescue survivors. This was to be used against him at the Nuremberg Trial.

The S.S. Lancastria, Robert Sharp and Henry Ernest Soden  
Of the many terrible sea tragedies of the world, the sinking of the S.S. Lancastria is one of the most notorious. It occurred two weeks after the Battle of Dunkirk, in Northern France on 17th June, 1940. Lancastria was evacuating men, women and children from that war-torn area. There is an estimate that nearly 5,800 were on board. 1,113 survived. Amongst the lost was one Soden, Pte. Henry Ernest Soden. His body was buried in the military cemetery at Dunkirk. The Captain of the Lancastria on that day was Robert Sharp. 1,619 of the 2,732 died.

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Dunkirk Military Cemetery, France  
Soden, Private, Henry Ernest, 2188507. 46 Company, Aux. Mil. Pioneer Corps.

Lost in the S.S. Lancastria (Liverpool)

17th June, 1940. Age 27.

Son of Henry and Carrie Soden. Husband of Lily Evelyn Soden, of Yardley Wood, Birmingham. Column 154.

SOURCES: -

Commonwealth Graves Commission

John Fl Soden Alamein  
Ian Scovil Soden, Pas de Calais  
Frank Graham Soden, Imphal, India

London Gazette, 28th June, 1940 [ DSO for Ian Scovil Soden]

London Battle of Britain Monument [John fl. Soden]  
War Memorial , Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England

Ernest Soden, Dunkirk, Lancastria, 1940  
John Flewellym Soden , Laconia , 1942

Researcher Alistair Jack at Kew Archives regarding the 3 Soden brothers  
and the Winchcombe Memorial, in Gloucestershire.

Royal Air Force, Personnel Management Agency, Innsworth, Glouc ester

,  
19 August, 1998

Das U-Boot Archiv, Cuxhaven, Germany

References BAL/02/8/Feb

LV/G2/6 Feb.

Source: PRO ,Kew,England.

List of the crew of the U624 and the Report of Fortress pilot who sank  
the U624:

(U Boot Archiv, Cuxhaven,germany)

This is the report of the Fortress Pilot who sank the U624 in February ,  
1942.

(PRO,Kew, England.)

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Chapter 66

'Tall' Stories 2

[Three Sodens at Bath]

Soden Plaque in Bath Cathedral, England

Tall Soden Stories II

IRELAND / SLIGO  
Sheriff of Sligo 1674

It is recorded that three Sodens of the Ascendancy Family in Sligo held the post of

Sheriff of the County

1674

Thomas Soden,Grange - High Sheriff

LH 8/Tituladoes/Sligo Courthouse Library

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Gray/High Sheriffs in Sligo/Sligo Courthouse Library

James Soden of Grange evidently son of Thomas Soden also of  
Grange High Sheriff in 1674. It is also clear that he is a close relation both  
of

Edward Soden High Sheriff 1730 and of James Soden,  
High Sheriff in 1736. The will of James Soden of Derry,Co.Sligo was  
Dat(e). of .1731.

Also Thomas Soden vivens 1775 was Provost in the County from 1787  
and his diary

was bequeathed to the Sligo Archive by James Arthur Soden of Toronto,  
Canada  
in 1972

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Sources:

Tall Soden Stories II

Sheriff of Sligo 1674

1674

Thomas Soden,Grange - High Sheriff

LH 8/Tituladoes/Sligo Courthouse Library

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Gray/High Sheriffs in Sligo/Sligo Courthouse Library

James Soden of Grange evidently son of Thomas Soden also of  
Grange High Sheriff in 1674. It is also clear that he is a close relation both  
of

Edward Soden High Sheriff 1730 and of James Soden,  
High Sheriff in 1736. The will of James Soden fo Derry,Co.Sligo was

Dat(e). of .1731.

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UNITED KINGDOM /

3 Soden Brothers : Ian Scovil, John fFlewellyn and Frank Graham

Flight Lieutenant Ian Scovil Soden D.S.O. (33289)

Distinguished Service Order George VI

1939/45 Star

Air Crew Europe Star

War Medal

was born on 14th March,1917 , educated Woodbridge School and graduated from RAF College Cranwell on appointment to commission in the Royal Air Force on 19th December,1936. On that day he was posted to No. 56 (Fighter) Squadron based at RAF North Weald in Essex. Involved in six successful enemy engagements in the 48 hours,late on 18th May,1940 he failed to return from his fifth sortie of the day ,his Hurricane being reported shot down a few miles from Vitry. This at a time when the allied Forces were retreating to Dunkirk.

On the outbreak of war,the squadron was engaged in defensive patrols until require to provide cover for the retreating forces at Dunkirk,in May,1940 when the officer was killed in action on the 18th of that month.

He was posthumously appointed a Companion to the Distinguished Service Order,a rare reward to such a young officer and mentioned in Despatches in the London Gazette of 1 January,1941.

Excerpt from The London Gazette,28th June,1940

Air Ministry,

28th June,1940

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ROYAL AIR FORCE

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned appointment and

awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:-

Appointed a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Flight Lieutenant Ian Scovil Soden (33289)

(reported missing)

This officers flight was ordered to France at short notice, and during the following two days he acted as leader in many combats against the enemy. He personally shot down five enemy aircraft, and possibly two more, whilst his flight destroyed a further seven. On one occasion he attacked, single-handed, between fifty and sixty enemy fighters, destroying one of them. One evening in May, 1940, whilst the aerodrome was being heavily bombed, Flight Lieutenant Soden jumped from a shelter trench, climbed into the nearest fighter aircraft and, without knowing whether it was fully fuelled or armed, took off from the aerodrome which was covered in smoke. Many delayed action bombs were present. He thus left comparative safety to make a lone attack on a greatly superior force. This officer has displayed great personal dash and courage, and his personal influence has made his flight into a determined fighting unit.

Medals in box addressed to Mrs. D. M. Soden, Green Down House, Bradford Road, Coombe Down, Bath, Somerset

Flight Lieutenant Georg Edward Thomas Soden MRCS., LRCP., (147577) was born on 8th December, 1908, studied at St. Bartholomews Hospital and was employed at Brackley Hospital, Northhamptonshire before being granted a commission in the Medical Branch of the Royal Air

Force Volunteer Reserve on 29th July, 1943. He was killed in action at the Headquarters of No. 961

(Balloon) Squadron at Frith Road, Dover on 26th September, 1944.

Leading Aircraftman John Francis Soden (1309640)

Information to be obtained yet

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Flight Lieutenant John Flewelling Soden, RAF, 42903

1939/45 Star

Air Crew Europe Star

Africa Star

Battle of Britain bar

Defence Medal

War Medal

John Flewelling Soden is commemorated on the London Battle of Britain Monument.

Served with 266 and 603 Squadrons during the Battle of Britain. August 16th, 1940 he force landed his Spitfire after being wounded in the leg during combat with Luftwaffe BF109s. He shared the destruction of a Heinkel 111 on 11/8/1940, claimed (confirmed) BF109. On 30/9/1940, claimed (confirmed)

BF109,30/9/1940. Wounded 25/10/1940. He then transferred to the Middle East flying Tomahawks.

It was during the return trip to England from Aden via Capetown that the troopship on which he was travelling was torpedoed by a submarine U156. The troopship on which he was travelling was the LACONIA (CUNARD WHITE STAR LINE) and was sunk in mid Atlantic on the 12th of September,1942 by U-Boat 156 . When Captain Hartenstein of U156 realised there were Italian prisoners aboard the Laconia ,he immediately rescued as many as possible and called other boats to the rescue. However,on the way home they were attacked by a American B-24 .The U-boats dived ,the survivors were picked up later by French vessels but this action by the Allies led to the Laconia Befehl of Donitz for his Uboats to cease rescuing crews of sunken ships

John Flewelling Soden is buried in the Military Cemetery in Alamein,Egypt and commemorated on Column 247.

Soden Lieutenant, Frank Graham,  
Army in Burma Reserve of Officers.

18th May,1942.

Grave 7.F.20.

Gloucester Echo 4/6/1942

He died of Blackwater Fever during the retreat in Burma. He was educated at Woodbridge School, and worked for a firm of importers in London before going out to Rangoon to work for six years in the teak forestry business. He was considered to have been an outstanding sportsman ,he played at Wimbledon All England Club.

Captain Wilfred Scovil Soden

Royal Army Medical Corps

British War Medal

Victory Medal with Mentioned in Despatches Oak Leaf

First Served in World War One in Egypt from 7th February,1914.

Son of Frank Holland Soden and married to Dorothy Maud Graham at Trinity Church,

St.Marylebone,London on 29th May, 1914.

He was born in Canada ,educated at Woodbridge School,Suffolk and St.Johns College, Cambridge.

He worked at Winchcombe Hospital , had a brother ,Group Captain Ormond Soden,DFC,a sister,Kathleen, an adopted daughter, Mrs.Cawood and lost 3 sons in World War 2.

#####

## TIMES INDEX

1941, January ? March

## Times Index

## NL Open Shelves

Soden, Flying Officer ,J.S.

## Death on active service

Jan.2.,6e

1944, July ? September

## Times Index

## NL Open Shelves

Soden, Rev. G[eoffrey]

## On post offices in rural districts

Sept.6. 8c

Soden, Flight Lt. G.E.

## Death on active service

Sept. 29., 8d

\_\_\_\_\_

Feature on the Sodens of Winchcombe, Oxfordshire, England.

One of the many rewards one gets from the study of family history is the chance to come upon the contribution and self-sacrifice of such a family as this, the Sodens of Winchcombe, Oxfordshire. The selfless and generous effort made by them in their different roles during this very trying period in British history is exemplary and a source of considerable pride to those who bear the name.

Dr.Wilfred Scovil Soden was born in Canada , came to England with his family,where he was educated.

He joined the Army Medical Corp and fought with distinction in the First World War. His medical career was distinguished by his work for the Wincombe hospital till his death in 1942 . This occasion was marked by all accounts with genuine grief at the loss of such a dedicated person, while remembering the great sacrifice made already by his 3 sons in the then raging Second World War.

All three sons were lost in World War Two in various arenas, Ian Scovil Soden, DSO in France, John Flewelling Soden, on the Laconia and Frank Graham Soden in Burma. There are short biographies to each in their respective sections.

Their mother was Maud Grahame and served in the WAAF. They had one adopted sister, Mrs. Cawood. All 3 names are remembered on the monument in Winchcombe, Oxfordshire, England

Sources:-

Excerpt from The London Gazette, 28th June, 1940  
Air Ministry,  
28th June, 1940

Commonwealth Graves Commission

John Fl Soden Alamein

Ian Scovil Soden, Pas de Calais

Frank Graham Soden, Imphal, India

London Gazette, 28th June, 1940 [ DSO for Ian Scovil Soden]

London Battle of Britain Monument [John fl. Soden]

War Memorial, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England

.Ernest Soden, Dunkirk, Lancastria, 1940

John Flewellym Soden, Laconia, 1942

Much information from researcher Alistair Jack at Kew Archives regarding the 3 Soden brothers and the Winchcombe Memorial, in Gloucestershire.

Royal Air Force, Personnel Management Agency, Innsworth, Gloucester, 19 August, 1998

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Chapter 67

'Tall' Soden Stories 3

Francis Soden, 1st recorded teacher in the Soden family in Ireland

FRANCIS SODEN, (2nd January, 1802 - vivens 1824)

Templevanny, Co. Sligo

Son of Francis and Amy Soden, Rowington, Warwickshire



See also Rowington, Warwickshire details at UK 1650

Francis Soden , a Catholic ,was the first recorded member of the Soden family to be a teacher.

He was recommended by Fr. Richard Fitzmaurice , the priest of Keash for training in 1824. He had at this time the appointment for the school in Templevanny from Earl Kingston.

He is mentioned 2 years later as being in charge of the pay school in Templevanny ,in the parish of Drumrat with scholars paying 1/3d to 2/9d per quarter . The school itself was a house built from lime and stone for between £80-£90.

(Sources : History of Achonry , 1689-1818 by Liam Swords , page 182 & O'Hara Papers Ms. 20,285 & Commissioners of Irish Education Enquiry , 1826-27 , XII pages 1310-1330.

1824

‘.....Richard Fitzmaurice,parish priest of Keash,recommended for training in 1824,

Francis Soden,who had here appointment by Earl Kingston to the school of Templevanny.’

History of Achonry, 1689-1818

By Liam Swords, published 1997

Page 182

(See de Brun pp. 85,182,238,240,256.

Parliamentary Papers (1825) volume 12

Appendix 223,page 617 and

O’Hara Papers Ms. 20,285)

1826-27

Parochial Returns for Sligo

Appendix no.22 to the Second Report

from Commissioners of Irish Education Enquiry H.C.1826-1827,

X11 pp. 1308-1330.

Francis Soden

Roman Catholic

page no.1316

Parish Drumrat

Location Templevany

Teacher

Pay school 1/3 yo 2/9 per qtr.School house built from lime and stone for £80 - £90.

Names of primary schools in different counties and their parishes:

Sligo:-

Parish School Name in 1826

Drumcliffe Kilsellagh/Carney/Ballinful

St.John's Sligo Prison,Oakfield,Sligo Female,Clover Hil,Cabry Female,Upr.  
St.John's.

Ahamlish Mount Temple

Ballinasoden Ballinasoden (Hibernian London)

London Hibernian Society

No return.

Related Reports:

Hibernian Society for Soldiers' Children/1844 (363) XLIII.155  
page 427

The Sixth Report :Hibernian Society for Soldiers' and Sailors'  
Children 1826-1827 (441) XIII/35

from Dingfelder/NL IR 372/d/38 (4 vols.) &

Irish Education Enquiry/NL IR 372/1/6 (2 vols.)

TAB [Tithe Applotment Books]

Reel 93

Page 5

Diocese Achonry

Parish Toomour

Townland Templevanny

Name Francis Soden

Quantity 1acre

School Plot

Valuation 18s.

Francis Soden, the teacher mentioned above, was the great-great-grandfather of Mary Soden McNerney, now a resident in Leixlip, Co.Kildare on the banks of the River Liffey near Dublin and the Sodens of Templevanny, Co. Sligo , some of whom attended the Soden Reunion in 2000.

Francis Soden was born in Reading, England and employed as a teacher in the schoolhouse at Templevanny, now a ruin. He died Mary believes in 1867. This means the Sodens of Templevanny would have experienced the full blow of the Great Famine and the 1867 Fenian Insurrection.

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## The Sodens of Coventry

Henry Soden (1806 – 1888), ribbon manufacturer, Mayor of Coventry and philanthropist.

‘ The Mayor of Coventry never trots’.

The full story of the Warwickshire and in particular the Soden families of Coventry is thoroughly researched by Ronald Soden of Arbewyswyth, Wales d. 1998 in the book ‘The Sodens of Coventry : A Warwickshire Family through Six Centuries’

There are a number of truly interesting stories related by Ronald of events in which Soden members were involved. This is a summary of one related to Henry Soden of Coventry.

In 1832 Henry married Mary Ann Proof of Corley Hall, north of Coventry. her farm featured in ‘Adam Bede’ , one fo the novels of George Eliot referred to as Poysers Farm. Henry lived at Much Park Street in Coventry. He then moved to Nr. 5. The Quadrant, Coventry , next door to his brother Thomas.

Henry was ribbon manufacturer or ‘silkman’ and worked in partnership with two others as Soden, Slater and Green based at 18 Much Park Street. He was deeply involved in public affairs and was Mayor of Coventry twice, in 1859 and in 1873. He was a trustee of charities and was a shareholder in the Coventry Corn Exchange. He retired from business in 1861 and both he and Mary Anwin were childless. He was very generous in his will to his family, friends and local of the city. Both he and Mary Ann died in 1888.

Henry is remembered for his remark, when as Mayor he was accompanying the Prince and Princess of Wales on a visit to the city, the Prince requested the procession to hurry up , to which Henry replied, ‘ The Mayor of Coventry never trots’.

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‘Tall’ Stories 4

Chapter 68

## 'Tall' Stories 4

Cavan Cathedral being visited by Kristina Soden and her uncle, Peter Soden

Msgr. Patrick Soden and Peter Soden, Main Street, Cavan

Cavan Cathedral [The Cathedral of St. Patrick and St. Phelim]

Building started on this project in 1938 and was completed in 1942. It was dedicated in 1947. Two members of the building committee were Peter Soden of Main Street, Cavan and Rev. Msgr. Patrick Soden in the Diocese of Kilmore.

Construction costs were considerable at the time, over £209,000.

The Cathedral is impressive, large, spacious, majestic with numerous side altars, in the pre-Vatican II orthodox, neo –classical style, a building of proud generous proportions, worthy of a house of prayer for its time. Actually in this original site was the church where the famous sheriff, Jim Brady, , who was killed by Billy the Kid, was baptised.

Christopher Soden , killed in action in France in 1915

1915:- Memorial WW1 records  
SODEN CHRISTOPHER REG.NO. 8581  
Private 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers killed in action in France,  
24th May,1915 born Kells,Co.Meath.

He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial ,  
Ypres,Belgium on panel 44 and 46 .He was 39 years  
of age and married to Mary Soden of 29,Upper Kevin  
Street,Dublin.

(Note: The house at 29,Upper Kevin is no longer there having been  
destroyed for road improvements.)

( Brian Thomas,WWI researcher,Nottingham.)

See also Breifne Vol.1/Nr.4 1961 p.385.

## Two Brave Germans

With the German family of the same name Soden and von Soden no definite early link can be established with the English or Irish families. Certainly there are links for later in time in the late 18th century in England and in the 19th century in the USA. Several members of the German families have distinguished themselves in a number of areas, politics, economics, the church and academia.

I believe two in particular are worthy of mention for their bravery and self-sacrifice.

Hans Freiherr von Soden, a German Lutheran Theologian [1881 – 1945] and the Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Carl Oskar Soden [1898 – 1943]

In the midst of all the hatred, bloodshed and violence of the pre-war years, one fine moment in this story was the meeting of the Brown Synod in Berlin in 1938. Dachau concentration camp had been open five years by then for opponents of the Nazi regime. Both Protestant and Catholic clergy were housed together for hard labour and death in Baracke 44. They prayed together. The theologians Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Pastor Niemöller and others from the newly formed Confessional Church bravely objected to the use of the Aryan paragraph in the 1933 Constitution of the Lutheran Church. Amongst these others was HANS FREIHERR VON SODEN.

He was born in Dresden on the 4th November, 1881.

And Died in Marburg on the 2nd October, 1945,

was a German Lutheran Theologian,

the son of HERMAN FREIHERR VON SODEN,

a pupil of von Harnacks,

Professor of Church History in Breslau and for

Church History and New Testament, Dogma and Old Christian Art in Marburg.

He was founder and head of the Confessional Church in Kurhessen and he was the compiler of the documentation against the use of the Aryan paragraph in the church in 1933.

and

Rev. Fr. Carl Oskar von Soden [1898 – 1943] was born raised and educated in Munich till his late twenties. He was a student of politics and philosophy, a journalist and finally studied theology becoming a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Freising.

In these troubled years of the thirties and the Nazi Party in Germany he was very aware of the pernicious influence being directed at the youth and so in all his parish work he specifically worked with the youth. The authorities had decided to move on him when with the advice of a friend, he escaped to Switzerland, then to Brasil into the United States. Even while in New York he worked with German ex-patriots in his similar situation on plans to frustrate the Nazi agenda. However, the stress and tension of the preceding years took their toll and he died of physical and mental exhaustion in 1943. His mortal remains were returned to the parish of Aufkirchen in 1986 where he had worked previously. His book, 'Das Falsche Reich' was published posthumously in 1999.

In this fine work we read the thoughts of a man who believed in the idea of the Social Contract which a government was duty bound to execute with its people. he saw this all demolished with the rule of this pagan, unchristian regime.

Sources:-

Christopher Soden – World War 1 Medal Roll

Brian Thomas, August, 1998,

Research location and photograph of the War Memorial

At Ypres, Belgium

Peter Soden, Cavan –

Thom's directory, Cavan,1939

National Census for Cavan 1901,1911c1

Das Falsche Reich by Fr. Carl Oskar von Soden, 1998

Wer ist Wer?

XX

Chapter 69

'Tall' Stories 5

Chapter 69

'Tall' Stories 5

The Sodens of Coventry and the move to Bath, England

With their continued prosperity and increased social standing a number of the Sodens moved residence to Bath, in Somerset, England where they were engaged in the professions of law, the church and medicine.

Thomas Spooner Soden, Barrister and Legal Author of Bath, England  
(1837 - 1921)

Briefly stated, Thomas Soden, b. 1734/d.1809 was a weaver, trained later as a surgeon, became a FRCS member. He worked with army, the 79th Highlanders in Egypt, returned to practice in Coventry, married Elizabeth Burney and moved to Bath where after Elizabeths death, he remarried. The son of this union was Thomas Spooner Soden [Bath plaque] , a noted barrister.

River Soden at Cardigan Bay, Wales

John Smith Sodens son from his second marriage, John James Soden, married Henrietta Williams of Berth-ddu, Lllaniman, Montgomeryshire, Wales. His second son, Athelaston, was bequeathed the estate on condition he change his name to Corbet Soden. And so it was that the River Soden was named to commemorate Athelaston and his father.

The River Soden enters Cardigan Bay between Newport and Aberporth and is marked on the map at Cwm Soden.

Athelaston had two brothers, Arthur who never married and Alfred who had a son named Alexander. When Alfred died his wife took young Alexander and his brother, John, to Vienna.

Alexander and Baron Maximilian von Soden

Young Alexander was sent by his mother to a Jesuit College in Vienna and afterwards began to study horticulture and forestry in Munich, Bavaria when WW1 broke out. He and any other British nationals were interned in the town of Ruhleben, Bavaria. His name came to the attention of the Minister of the Interior, Baron Max von Soden. Ronald relates that the Baron visited the camp and spoke privately with Alexander for more than an hour. They discussed the possibility of family connections but could establish none but remained friends and in close contact after the war with Baron von Soden offering him many kindnesses. Alexander was entertained many times at the Counts Schloss. Alexander related that after the Counts visit to the camp and conversation with him, as soon as the Count departed, the other prisoners believed him to be a spy and they dutifully beat the living daylights out of him.

[Source: The Sodens of Coventry: A Warwickshire Family over Six Centuries by Ronald Soden, 1992]

Photographs of Plaque in Bath Cathedral and Map of the River Soden at Cwm Soden, National Geographic Magazine]

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Chapter 70

‘Tall’ Stories 6

Chapter 70

‘Tall’ Soden Stories 6

Jim Soden of Canada

On November 20th, 2009 , a great Soden passed on. James Arthur Soden, born October 20th, 1922, passed away at the age of 87 in Toronto. James Arthur Soden was awarded the Order of Canada in May, 2003.

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#### Citation for the Order of Canada

JAMES ARTHUR SODEN , Q.C.

in the 1960s which pioneered the worlds first omniplex, Place Ville Marie, in Montreal, the bringing on stream of this and other developments across Canada.

A man of integrity and vision in the world of commercial real estate, Jim Soden opened up a new era for real estate and Canadian economic development. Under his leadership, Canadas first public investment vehicle for real estate was born. During this period ,under Sodens stewardship, Canada was established as a world leader in the development of major urban multi-use complexes and investors from all over the world visited Canada to take note of these advances and called upon the Canadian development industry to undertake similar developments on their behalf.

The revitalization of Montreal’s downtown core as well as those Soden led in other major cities of Canada, including Halifax, St. John, Toronto ,



Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver became a pre-eminent vehicle for national economic growth and development. For the first time individuals and companies , domestic and international , took a financial stake in Canadas architecture and in its economy through real estate, a new generation of world class developers received training and new synergies and a new culture for commerce emerged through the interplay of retail shopping , office and communal spaces. Soden's innovations in legal , financial and marketing strategies in real estate became the model for others and his advances in diversification of holdings grew the company under his leadership into Canadas and the worlds largest public estate corporation by the early 1970's, heralding the coming of age of the real estate industry in Canada.

Jim Soden saw the potential for lack of control and correspondingly the need for governance and standards if Canadians and their bankers were going to invest in this vast new frontier of publicly owned real estate. He became a zealous advocate for and finally the founder and Chairman of the Canadian Institute of Public Real Estate Companies (CIPREC now CIPPREC), to which all public (and later private as well) real estate companies subscribed, to ensure uniformity, integrity and confidence in real estate accounting practices. Enjoying to this day a reputation as Canada's premier real estate accounting reference, the accounting guidelines of CIPPREC have been endorsed and used consistently since its inception in real estate audits by members of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA).

Soden ensured important financial support to a now regional health center in Ontario, sat as director of hospitals in Quebec and Ontario and pioneered the early development of Canadas most respected private nursing and retirement home chain. For over forty years , he always found time to do what he loved most ,to teach and to nurture generations of Canadian entrepreneurs , builders and developers, Quebec lawyers and notaries at the McGill University Faculty of Law and youth at every level of Scouts Canada.

Ann Soden

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About Jim Soden....[1922 -2003]

Wherever you went in your investigations into our family history, you could bet Jim Soden had been there. A generation separated us but he in common with a small few, John Voorhis Soden (New York), Terence Soden

(England) and Ronald Soden (Wales) pursued assiduously and thoroughly the multi-sided history of the Soden family. No greater pleasure was there for him than to talk about Soden members who had fought at the Battle of Waterloo or had explored the South Seas, or had been decorated in the World Wars. It was tremendously rewarding to know that someone else was enthralled with a similar aim, but even more gratifying to read what they had discovered.

Chasing the facts on one occasion in his twenties he visited the firm of P.N.Soden, Vancouver, Canada, paint manufacturers. His quest was to establish if there were any connection between the his branch in Cohoes, NY /Toronto and Vancouver. The reception from P.N Soden was not cordial, actually downright intimidating chastising him for such forwardness and who did he think he was anyway with his background.

His tenacious pursuit of the family history brought him to Soden areas from Washington State through Ontario, Canada to Germany, England and Ireland. Any and every opportunity was used to learn more about our background. An essential pre-requisite for this was a profound knowledge of the social, political, economic and religious history of an area. This he acquired and applied not just through travel but through his voluminous reading.

#### 8 Eggs in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin!

Jim Soden besides being a lawyer , businessman, academic was an able raconteur. When we met for the first time in the Shelbourne Hotel in 1995 he told us of his first visit with some air buddies in Summer of 1945. Few pleasures were available at this time in England where he was based, so when they visited Ireland in May, 1944, they stayed at the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. The first morning they ordered breakfast they learnt they could have eggs, so Jim had 8 !!!!!

#### The Pathfinder Pilot of WWII

One other extremely exciting element of his career was his time as a Pathfinder Pilot with the RAF. As a Pathfinder pilot he was based in England and flew over Germany in front and underneath the Allied Bombers. However, we will have to await the full details of that story from his daughter's, Margaret Soden's ,biography of her father next year.

#### Sources:

Jams Arthur Soden, Q.C.

Obituary of James Arthur Soden of Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
<http://www.bookofsoden.com/photos/Canada/sodenobitjim.mht>  
Citation for the Order of Canada 2004

Frank Ormond 'Mongoose' Soden, 1895 – 1961 – The Flying Daredevil

Frank Ormond Soden's life makes for excitement and adventure, the likes of which every young person would dearly look forward to. A Canadian by birth, Frank Ormond Soden was born 1895 in New Brunswick, Canada. His family emigrated to England in 1899, they lived in Bath, Somerset, UK. Frank attended Woodbridge School in Suffolk, which was also the alma mater to his nephew, Frank Graham Soden. In 1914 he joined the British Army, followed over the years by service in the South Staffordshire Regiment, then the Royal Flying Corps, then 65 Squadron. At the end of WW1 he had 16 kills to his name, the most significant of which was the downing of Max, Ritter von Mueller in January 1918 accompanied on that mission by another British pilot, Major Chidlaw-Roberts.

1919- 45

After WW1 he fought with the RAF in Murmansk, Northern Russia for the forces of the White Russians, then he took part in the campaign in Kurdistan, Iraq. For his participation in WW1 and the mission at Kurdistan Frank Gordon received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Frank Ormond received many commands and missions between the two wars amongst which was command of Britain's most important airfield at Biggin Hill.

He retired in May, 1945 to Kenya during which time he married the popular socialite of the day, Wanda Holden. She was a popular and frequent participant on the London Social scene in the interbellum years. She died in Kenya in 1956 and Frank Gordon returned to London where he died in 1961.

[Note : Frank Ormond Soden was brother of Dr. Winfred Scovil Soden and uncle to John Flewelling Soden, DFC, Ian Scovil Soden and Frank Graham Soden. The three sons of Winfred Scovil Soden are commemorated with others on the War Memorial at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, UK.]

Some sources on Frank Gordon Soden -  
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Norman, Frank, SE 5/5a Aces of World War I. Osprey Publishing, 2007;

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Wanda Holden obituary -

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/193326302/wanda-soden>

Wikipedia page , See Frank Ormond Soden at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank\\_Ormond\\_Soden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Ormond_Soden)

Woodbridge School – Suffolk, England, UK

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodbridge\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woodbridge_School)

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Chapter 71

‘Tall’ Stories 7

Chapter 7

‘Tall’ Stories 7

The Life and Times of Doris E. Soden [1892 - 1979]

Iowa and Kansas, USA

It really is great to read the story of a happy and contented person, about their life experience and achievements. Such is the booklet entitled ‘History of Doris E. Soden’.

Doris lived in Iowa and Kansas all his life. I don’t know to which Soden branch he would belong, the German, the Irish or the British. So many of his friends and neighbours had very German, English and Irish names. Not too far away by American standards was Osaga country, which tribe was cared for by the German Jesuit Fr. Schoemaker and the Irish nun, Sr. Bridget Hayden.

Doris’ family consisted of his parents, four boys and two girls. His father, Fred, was a cobbler and Doris himself was born 20th July, 1892 in Seymour, Wayne County, Iowa. Doris’ schooling was basic by our standards and up to his late teens, Doris held many varied jobs to bring in the extra money needed for the family. He worked as a helper on a bee farm, a shoe shine, a cotton picker with his brother, a meat delivery boy.

In 1906 when he was fourteen, the family moved to Goodland , Kansas, a bigger industrial town with the Goodland Electrical Plant and a large rail network situated there. It was here he had his first girlfriend and worked with his sister in the County Clerks Office. He also worked at the Rock Island Railroad where he learnt radio telegraphy as well as helping in his fathers shoe business. His most successful job however was the purchase and sale of mules at the outbreak of WW1, whereby he often tripled his profit.

Doris mentioned few negative events in his life, the first being the train robbery in Hugo and the bloody shootout at the Bartholomew Farm nearby. Four people were killed altogether. He also suffered from the 1917 flu which he fortunately survived. And the incredibly cold winters they had sometimes down to -40C and the occasional sand and hail storms.

It was soon after he met and married his wife, Nelle Stallgreen, in 1919 and they remained man and wife for 51 years. With married life Doris became involved in the insurance business culminating years later in his setting up the Kansas Savings and Loan League. He and Nelle were very much community people and amongst other activities Doris was involved in were such the Free Masons, the Elks and the Rotary Club.

He recalled with great pleasure the hunting trips as a boy with his friends, collecting berries in the wooded country, fishing, hunting and spotting mountain lions, later to enjoying the family outings with Nelle and their friends on the Republican northwest of Goodland.

His dear Nelle passed away on 14th December, 1971, they had been married for 51 years. Doris died in 1979.

---

Ulrich Graf von Soden - Fraunhofen [1913 - 44] was of the southern German branch of von Soden.

In WW2 he enlisted as a officer in the German Navy (Bundesmarine) and received eventually command of U624 and its 40 strong crew. This is an outline of his career till his death at sea.

Kommandant Ulrich Graf von Soden-Fraunhofen [1913 - 44]  
, Commander of U624  
WORLD WAR TWO  
1939-45

## U-BOAT COMMANDER

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Graf Ulrich von Soden-Fraunhofen

Born 1913/8/2 in Friedrichshafen, Bavaria, Germany

1939-9 - 1940/7

Watch Officer & Adjutant

16. Minensuch-Flotille

1940/11 - 1941/3

Kommandant

12. Minensuch-Flotille

Career of Kmdt. Ulrich Graf von Soden - Fraunhofen (U Boot  
Archiv, Cuxhaven, Germany)

1941/4 - 1941/10

U-Boat Training

1941/10 - 1942/3

1. Watch Officer on the U552

1942/3 - 1942/5

Kommandant Training

2. U.A.A. & 24 U-Boot Flotille

1943-1-1

Crew 36

Kapitänleutnant

1942/5/28 - 1943/2/7

---

Kommandant of U-624

The U-624 sank 5 ships of 39,855 tons and damaged 1 of 5,432 tons.

1st Mission:-

These were :

29/10/1942 Kosmos II ,a Norwegian Walkoher? In Secotr AL54

29/10/1942 The steamer Pan New York in sector AL54

18/11/1942 The steamer Yaka while belonging to the 'Viper' group  
in sector AK 48

18/11/1942 Tanker President Sergeant in sector AK 48

18/11/1942 Steamer Parismina in sector AK 48

2nd Mission:

25/1/1943 Lone Freighter Lackenby ,a British steamer in sector AL 45

4/2/1943 engaged as escort

---

7/2/1943 Sunk by RAF B-17 Fortress Squadron 220  
1943/2/7

It was sunk in the North Atlantic on 7. February, 1943, in position 55°42'N, 26°17'W by depth charges from a British B-17 Fortress Aircraft (Sqn. 220/J). The crew of 45 were all killed.

Drawing of the 'owl', the covername for U624  
(U Boot Archiv, Cuxhaven, Germany)

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The U-552 carried out 10 patrols for 298 days up to August, 1942  
Its Captain was the charismatic Erich Topp. Altogether with him as Captain the U552 sank 184,244 tons of Allied shipping gaining him eventually the Knights Cross with Oak Leaves and Swords.

Soden was watch officer on the U552 when Topp was commander and when the USS James Reuben was sunk. He served from October, 1941 to March, 1942. During this time his boat patrolled the North-, and West Atlantic, the New Foundland Bank and south of Nova Scotia. Between the 25th October, 1941 and

25th November, 1941 the U552 accompanied the 'Storkekecker', sank an 8000 tonne British Steamer patrolled west of Gibraltar and sank the USS Reuben James.

This happened some 6 weeks before the Americans declared war on the Germans and this was the first American ship to be sunk, though many had been damaged. 100 of the crew of 144 perished. This happened on 31. October, 1941 at 0525 hours while the USS James Reuben was with the eastbound convoy HX-156.

Soden left the U-552 for Commander Training and command in May, 1942 of the U-624.

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Report by the RAF Crew, 7th February, 1943  
Date Feb. 7  
Aircraft

Type & Number Fortress II J220 Fl.459

Crew P/O Roberson,G.Capt.

P/O Grove,P.H. 2 Pil

F/S Britten,T.Nav.

Sgt.Dreghton,L. 3 Pil.

F/Sgt. White,H.

F/S Sutton,J.S.

Sgt. Pratt,H.

Sgt. Thacker,R

Torkington,A.

Duty Parallel track sweep to cover S.G.118

Time Up 1230

Time Down 2308

Details of Sortie 1740 in position 56' 14'N,24"55'W

1812 in position 55"42'N,26"17'W,sighted u/b on surface;

after stalking through cloud cover to within 3 miles attacked  
through rain at 90"

to track from starboard with d.c.'s. U/B straddled between

No.4 and No.5 d.c.'s

U/B submerged slowly. After plum subsided a round object 12 ft. Long  
rose out

of water to about 4 ft. Several pieces of yellow wood also seen. Marine  
marker dropped after 15 minutes and dr. and corvette contacted and then flew  
to C/V and reported to S.N.O.Nothing further seen.

References BAL/02/8/Feb

LV/G2/6 Feb.

Source: PRO ,Kew,England.

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Chapter 71

‘Tall’ Stories 7

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Sgt. Thacker,R

Torkington,A.

Duty Parallel track sweep to cover S.G.118

Time Up 1230

Time Down 2308

Details of Sortie 1740 in position 56' 14'N,24"55'W

1812 in position 55"42'N,26"17'W,sighted u/b on surface;

after stalking through cloud cover to within 3 miles attacked through rain at 90"

to track from starboard with d.c's. U/B straddled between

No.4 and No.5 d.c.'s

U/B submerged slowly. After plum subsided a round object 12 ft. Long rose out

of water to about 4 ft. Several pieces of yellow wood also seen. Marine marker dropped after 15 minutes and dr. and corvette contacted and then flew to C/V and reported to S.N.O.Nothing further seen.

References BAL/02/8/Feb

LV/G2/6 Feb.

Source: PRO ,Kew,England.

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XX

## Chapter 72

### ‘Tall’ Stories 8

" Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.". John, 15,13

The short but noble life of George Herbert Soden, 1920 – 62  
Royal Welsh Guard Fusilier 419403H

George Herbert Soden was born on 4th April, 1920 in Wrexham, Wales. George was raised by his uncle, Thomas Soden and aunt, Biddy. During WW2 George Soden was based at Crumlin, Wales guarding the Rail Bridge against German attack. It was here he met his future wife, Margaret.

George’s mother, Elizabeth Soden , was born with spinibifida and so was unable to rear the little baby. He was raised by Thomas and Biddy together with his cousins, Benny, who was blind, and Beaty. Elizabeth Soden died in 1929 in Wrexham.

George enlisted in the Welsh Guards during WW2 and on return to civilian life sought work as a physiotherapist but as he could find no work in that field, he turned to mining and found work at the colliery in Llingithlow.

He worked as a miner until the fateful day of the terrible accident at Llanhilleth. Cut into the sides of every tunnel there are cubby holes where miners can shelter in case of an explosion. On that teririble day in 1962 there

was an explosion and George shoved first a fellow miner into the cubbyhole but did not have time himself to seek cover. He was killed immediately in the explosion. At 42 years of age he left his wife, Margaret (Hughes) and a boy, David , father of Richard Soden, the source of this remarkable story. His ashes were scattered in the rose gardens at Cwmbran Cemetery.

Looking at his short life at a distance perhaps it is easier to understand his selflessness in serving his country in war and saving his friend in the mine, after his experience of the lifelong selflessness of his uncle Thomas and Aunt Biddy.

[Source: Richard Soden, Cwmbran, Wales, grandson of George Herbert Soden, 18/6/2020]

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The Sodens of Oxford, Jericho and Cutteslowe 1802 – 2019

[All information on this branch of the Sodens has come from the copious details of Nigel Dudley [ ]

The Oxford Mail 1960 and the grave inscriptions of the Oxford Historical Society. ]

The Sodens through all their branches have been involved in many different professions and trades.

Prominent in Ireland were farming and horticulture. In England horticulture , too, was common but the Church, Law, Medicine, the Military, both Army and Navy, Tanning, Abattoirs, Postal and the Chimney Sweep Business were the principle activities.

Nigel Dudley's great grandfather, Leonard Soden, and Nigel's grandfather were involved with horses and greyhounds in the Oxford area at the turn of the 20th century. Their most successful greyhound was Witney Glitters. As a young boy Nigel went to the races with his grandfather and experienced the hustle and bustle of race – going and often heard his

grandfather making a bet on a horse by phone in the coded language of the day, 'Hello, this is Smokey Two speaking'.

Leonard was interviewed by the Oxford Mail in the late 1960s where he recalls his involvement in the racing, as well as the horse slaughtering, postal and chimney sweep business.

1835 - 2019

Joseph Soden , born 1835, was the son of John (born 1802) and Catherine Soden and was the first to work as a chimney sweep mainly in the Jericho area of Oxford. He was followed by his son William Abraham Soden, born 1863, then by Leonard Soden, 1897, then by Richard Soden, then by Michael Soden and finally by Gary Soden, when the business ceased in 2019 to operate. [To be completed]

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Chapter 73

'Tall' Stories 9

(Source: Archivanet. Canadian Archives on the Internet.)

SELECTED POETRY OF

WILLIAM HENRY DRUMMOND (1854 – 1907)

William Henry Drummond ( known until 1875 as William Henry Drumm), telegraphist,physician,poet,professor and public lecturer, was born 13.April,1854 near Mohill (Republic of Ireland), son of George Drumm and ELIZABETH MORRIS SODEN;married 18.April,1894 May Isobel Harvey in Savanna la Mar,Jamaica,and they had three sons ,one of whom survived infancy,and one daughter;died 6.April,1907 in Cobalt,Ontario.

The eldest of four sons born to an officer in the Royal Irish Constabulary,William Henry Drumm spent his early years in County Leitrim. He attended school in Tawley,where his parents had stayed shortly after his birth. Sometime in 1863-64 the family returned briefly to Mohill. According to May Isobel Drummond, after George Drumm was dismissed from the police force because of a quarrel with Lord Leitrim over 'the Landlord system',he had a 'paralytic stroke from which he never really recovered.' Disgusted with conditions in

Ireland and worried about the family's future, he and his wife decided to emigrate with their children to Lower Canada; they arrived in Montreal in the summer of 1864.

In February 1866 Drumm died and his family, left without even his small pension, faced financial hardship.

In order to survive, Mrs. Drumm opened a store in the front room of their house, the boys all sold newspapers and, when he was 14, William Henry left school and became an apprentice telegraphist.....

....In 1875, having been convinced by a cousin that 'the name Drumm was but a corruption of the name Drummond our ancient family name,' he officially changed his surname and that of his mother and brothers to Drummond.

William Henry Drummond graduated with an M.D. from McGill University in 1884 and started practising in the eastern townships (along the St. Lawrence River) to which his dialect poems so often refer.

In 1888 he moved to Montreal. It was ten years later, well after his marriage May Isobel that Drummond published his first book of poetry, the *Habitant* (1897). He went on to publish five more books of poetry, *Phil – o – Rum's Canoe* (1848); *Johnnie Courteau* (1901); the *Voyager* (1905); and the *Great Fight* (1908) and to become one of the most widely-read and loved poets of his nation. He was made Fello of the Royal Society of Canada in 1899 and received two honorary degrees, the first from the University of Toronto in 1902, and then from Bishop's University in 1905.

See the CANADIAN BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY ; William Henry Drummond :

Poet in Patois by J.B.Lyons.

'De nice leetle Canadienne'  
You can pass on de worl'w'ever you lak,  
Tak' de steamboat for go Angleterre,  
Tak' car on de State, an'den you come back,  
An' go all de place, I don't care -  
Ma frien' dat's a fack, I know you will say,  
W'en you come on dis contree again,  
Dere's no girl can touch, w'at we see ev'ry day,  
De nice leetle Canadienne  
(Lines 1 - 8)



Excerpted from the Toronto University Selection of Drummond's Poetry.

Sources: -

Archivanet. Canadian Archives on the Internet.

Canadian Biographical Dictionary, under Drummond

William Henry Drummond , Poet in Patois by J.B.Lyons

David Pease, Ontario, Canada, 2015

Margaret Laughton, St. Catherine's , Ontario, Canada, 1998

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Chapter 74

'Tall' Stories 10

Bro.Aloysius Soden Marianist Religious , Dayton, Ohio

Lt. Aloysius Soden, USNR, Chaplain & Japanese Translator at Truk in  
the Pacific1945 on the USS Missouri

One remarkable story of great pride to the Soden name are the life and achievements of Br. Aloysius Soden (1907 – 1966) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Aloysius was born on 4th July, 1907 into a large family. He had one brother and four sisters. His brother , Martin, became a priest in Spokane Washington and three of his sisters became nuns with different religious orders.

His education

Education was an important element in his life. He attended Philadelphia Catholic High School transferring to the Marianist College in Beacon, New York. He would enter the Marianist Religious Order in Dayton, Ohio. He entered the University of Dayton studying Oriental languages and would later go onto manage their school , St. Joseph's in Yokohama Japan.

World War 2

At the outbreak of war he was interned in Yokohama and repatriated in 1942. From 1942 – 46 he worked as a US Navy officer as a chaplain and translator on the USS Missouri and the USS Portland. He was present at the Japanese surrender of the Mandated Islands on 2nd September, 1945. He stayed with the US Navy in Tokyo till March, 1946 when he took over control of the Marianist College of St. Joseph's , Yokohama till 1953. After spending some two years in Dayton, he happily returned to Japan to finish his work. However his health greatly deteriorated over the next few years and after returning to Dayton for medical treatment , he died on 2nd January, 1966. He was 59 years of age. He is buried in Beacon, New York.

The photograph shows Lt. Aloysius Soden (far right standing) at the signing of the Japanese Surrender aboard the USS Portland at Truk in the Pacific, on 2nd September, 1945 at which event he was the translator.

Br. Aloysius Soden saw a great opportunity to win the souls of the Japanese through the similarities between Buddhism and Christianity. His pupils had the utmost regard for him, a number became teachers at St. Joseph's and a number proceeded after his death to establish an educational foundation in his name.

#### Sources:

Biography of Br. Aloysius Soden, Marianist Order, Dayton, Ohio, USA

Letter of Bro. Aloysius Soden 8th December, 1966

'Mary: A Point of Contact with Japanese Buddhism', article by Br. Aloysius Soden, New York, Fall Number 1966, 'World Magazine'.

Catholic Telegraph , January 14, 1966

Catholic Telegraph, January 6, 1967

Dayton Daily News, Friday, 30/12/1966

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Chapter75

'Tall' Stories 11

## THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO

Sodens at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

After much research results show that there are at least 5 Sodens present at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 at which the British and German forces under Wellington and Blucher beat the French under Napoleon.

3 were German with the forces of Blucher

1815

Ensign Lewis Soden, 4th Battalion of the Line, King's German Legion

Lieut. Christian de Soden, 3rd Battalion of the Line, King's German Legion

Ensign C.A. von der Soden, 3rd Battalion of the Line, King's German Legion]

and

1 was Irish with the Duke of Wellington

[1811

SODEN, Terence; Drumgoon, Cavan

1811 - 1831

38 yrs; 11th Foot,

WO97/330 (see documents)]

[from the WATERLOO DATABASE of David Milner

and

1 was English with the Duke of Wellington

[Private Thomas Soden,

Coldstream

(or 2nd) Regiment of Foot Guards

in Lt.Col.Hon.H.R.Pakenham's Company

Source: David Milner's Waterloo Database  
& Beckett's Chelsea Pensioners' list ]

With the help of military history researcher, Barbara Chambers [1998] I have been able to establish Thomas Soden of the Coldstream Guards was the same one as the Thomas Soden listed in Col. Pakenham's Company. In all the muster rolls from December 1811 - 1815 [WO12/1710 - 1712] he is enrolled as

Thomas Soden but in the Waterloo company pay and muster he is listed as Thomas Sowden.

The Coldstream Guards played a crucial roll in the defence of a chateau called Hougoumont at Waterloo

Sources: -

Waterloo

L.W. Metzner ,research 9/1/1997

Garrison Kirchenbuch Hannover 6190-1811, volumes 1,2,3,

And

Garrison Kirchenbuch Hannover 1816 – 1867

And

Barbara Chambers, researcher, Index Foot Guards; The Coldstream Guards,

1st & 2nd Battalions, WO12/1709-1712 from year 1811 to 1815

And WO97 and WO121; 1760-1854, Kew Archives

Beckett's List of Chelsea Pensioners

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Chapter 76

'Tall' Stories

Jack Soden

Graceland s Chief Executive Officer

Born in Kansas, Missouri in 1954

The Man who Started 'Gracelands'

When the King 'Elvis Presley' died on 16th August 1977, his immediate beneficiaries to his great fortune were his parents and his daughter, Lisa Marie Presley, who was only nine years old at the time. Priscilla Presley, his wife, got the house 'Gracelands', which though, of course, valuable had to be maintained. In general they faced a situation where unless managed correctly and judiciously the legacy that was Elvis Presley could dissipate far and wide.

So, the Presleys enrolled the expert advice of Jack Soden, investment counsellor, from Kansas, Missouri. Jack Soden became Chief Executive Officer

of Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc. in May 1990. He had been Executive Director of the Graceland Division since 1982. He was involved in other charitable such as The National Civil Rights Museum, Professional Advisory Board-St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the Society of Entrepreneurs.

Within nine months Soden had put together a plan, which would maximise the full potential of the Presley legacy to the mutual benefit of family and fans worldwide. A trust was set up till young Lisa Marie came of age. Then the company Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE) was founded which controlled and developed every aspect of the Presley legend. All promotional materials and in particular the development and maintenance of Elvis' home, 'Gracelands', Tennessee were vital elements of the strategy. Soden started it in 1982 and a quarter of a century later; he was still at the helm and supervising one of the most successful entertainment promotions and legacies in the world.

#### From Lavey, Co. Cavan

Though the name might not suggest it, Jack Soden's great ancestors hail from Co. Cavan. His great-great-great-grandfather, John Soden left the townland of Lattaghlohan, in the parish of Upper Lavey in 1854. The parish of Upper Lavey has been the birth-, marriage- and burial site of many members of this branch of the Cavan and Kansas Sodens since the beginning of the eighteenth century. After working in construction in his early years, he obtained a number of lucrative contracts for road building. John Soden was deeply involved in church matters and financed the construction of the main Roman Catholic church in Kansas, City, Missouri.

#### The King is still alive'

So, over forty years after Elvis' death thanks to Jack Soden and his 350 colleagues at EPE, the world could continue to experience the songs, singing and music of Elvis, his music and 'Gracelands'. The magic and charisma of Elvis and the attraction of his music seems even greater among a generation, which has never had the unique experience of one of his live concert but relies solely on his exhilarating visual and sound-recordings thanks to the work of Elvis Presley Enterprises.

REGIS MAGAZINE, Keeper of the King, MATT K. JOHNSON, APRIL 29, 2020

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### FR. FRANCIS JOSEPH SODEN, 1842 - 1906

Francis Soden, the teacher, was the great-great-grandfather of Mary Soden McNerney, now a resident in Leixlip, Co. Kildare on the banks of the River Liffey near Dublin and the Sodens of Templevanny, Co. Sligo, some of whom attended the Soden Reunion in 2000.

Francis Soden was born in Reading, England and employed as a teacher in the schoolhouse at Templevanny, now a ruin. He died Mary believes in 1867. This means the Sodens of Templevanny would have experienced the full blow of the Great Famine and the 1867 Fenian Insurrection.

### Rev. Fr. Francis Joseph Soden, 1842 - 1906

Francis had at least one child, a son, Francis Joseph Soden, [1842-1906], who became a Roman Catholic priest and worked in England. The family in Keash, Co. Sligo had a framed picture of him. One of the parishes he served in was St. Mary's, Euxton, England from which source his biography has been acquired.

Fr. Francis Joseph Soden, descended in a direct line from Francis and Amy Soden of Rowington, Warwickshire, the same line as that of Kenneth Gould, whose grandmother was Alice Soden, the subject of Ken's novel, 'Time and Time Again' published in 2009.

Francis Soden, the teacher in Templevanny, Co. Sligo was born in Rowington, Warwickshire, in 1802, the son of Francis and Amy Soden.

Fr. Francis Joseph Soden, was born in Templevanny, Co. Sligo, the son of Francis Soden, national school teacher in the parish of Toomour. He was born in 1842 and died in England in 1906.

He was educated in his parish and then entered All Hallows Seminary in Drumcondra, Dublin where he was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the England mission on 24th June, 1865.

He served in the 1860s in the Preston area, by 1870 he was serving at St. Patrick's Liverpool and had moved to Wigan by 1875. In 1878 he became the priest-in-charge at Sacred Heart, Chorley and remained there till 1893 when he moved to Euxton. In 1896 moved to Mawdesley, Wigan and Southport till he was appointed priest-in-charge of St. Joseph's Mission, Withnell in September, 1904. His health had greatly deteriorated and he died on 24th June, 1906 at the age of 64, the 41st anniversary of his ordination. He is buried in the graveyard at St. Chad's Whittle on 27th June, 1906.

Sources:

Jack Soden

Website for the Soden Family name –

<http://www.bookofsoden.com>

Filippo, Chet, Grace land, The Living Legacy of Elvis Presley, Michael Beazley, 1993

Priscilla Beaulieu Presley, Elvis and Me, New York, Putnam, 1 1985

And

Francis Soden, 1802-67, and Fr. Francis Joseph Soden, 1838-1906

St. Marys Euxton Parish Archive, 2013, United Kingdom

Ms. Mary Soden McNerney, Leixlip, Dublin , great great great grand daughter

John Garvin, local historian, Templevanny, Co. Sligo

England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, Francis Soden, 07 Jan, 1802, Rowington, Warwickshire, England , FHL microfilm 599,891

Family Tree of Kenneth Gould, Dorset, England [ The Rowington Line and the Birmingham Line], 2000 Story 3 and Story 12 – Fr. Francis Soden

Francis Soden ...

History of Achonry, 1689-1818

By Liam Swords,published 1997

Page 182

(See de Brun pp. 85,182,238,240,256.

Parliamentary Papers (1825) volume 12

Appendix 223,page 617 and

O'Hara Papers Ms. 20,285)

1826-27

Parochial Returns for Sligo

Appendix no.22 to the Second Report

from Commissioners of Irish Education Enquiry H.C.1826-1827,

X11 pp. 1308-1330.

Francis Soden

Roman Catholic

page no.1316

Parish Drumrat

Location Templevany

Teacher

Pay school 1/3 yo 2/9 per qtr.School house built from lime and stone for £80 - £90.

Names of primary schools in different counties and their parishes:

Sligo:-

Parish School Name in 1826

Drumcliffe Kilsellagh/Carney/Ballinful

St.John's Sligo Prison,Oakfield,Sligo Female,Clover Hil,Cabry Female,Upr.

St.John's.

Ahamlish Mount Temple

Ballinasoden Ballinasoden (Hibernian London)

London Hibernian Society

No return.

Related Reports:

Hibernian Society for Soldiers' Children/1844 (363) XLIII.155

page 427

The Sixth Report :Hibernian Society for Soldiers' and Sailors'

Children 1826-1827 (441) XIII/35

from Dingfelder/NL IR 372/d/38 (4 vols.) &

Irish Education Enquiry/NL IR 372/1/6 (2 vols.)

and

TAB [Tithe Applotment Books]

Reel 93

Page 5

Diocese Achonry

Parish Toomour

Townland Templevanny

Name Francis Soden

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Chapter 77

'Tall' Stories 13



Thomas Soden, 1594 – 1700, Sligo, Ireland

Thomas 'The Crank'

Poor old Thomas. Well, he probably wasn't that poor but he certainly was old. All seemed to be agreed he made it over 100 years of age.

The Lands at Grange, Co. Sligo

Thomas Soden and Philip Sulevane were granted the lands at Grange, formerly the property of the O'Creans according to O'Harte. This was the main road from Sligo to Ballyshannon where there was also a military barracks and which they were to guard.

Several stories have followed Thomas through history. Joe McDonagh in 'Under the Shadow of Ben Bulbin' relates the story where Thomas Soden deceived the original recipient of the land by informing him of the uselessness of the land for anything. At which point Thomas obtained the land for almost nothing. This story is to be found in the local folklore of the parish and in the files of the Folklore Commission in UCD.

The detail of the Cromwellian Settlement of Lands in Ireland as outlined by Prendergast in his book based on files from Dublin Castle does not lead to one to this conclusion. Even the Nazis copied the example of the Cromwellian Settlement of Land for their 'Lebensraum Politik' in Soviet Russia in the 1940s, so precise was it in its measurements and description. So it is very unlikely that land would be passed on in this cavalier manner.

'Its amazing the workings of a wheelbarrow.'

He is recorded in McDonagh's book as an angry old man being transported around the parish in his later years by a servant in a wheelbarrow keeping order on matters. This story is again taken from local folklore.

St. Molaise and Target Practice

Stella Durand in her book 'Drumcliffe' writes that it was Thomas Soden who used the ancient statue of St. Molaise found on Inishmurray as shooting target practice from his boat as he neared the island.

I have checked this out with the Director of the National Museum in Collins Barracks, Dublin where the statue can be seen today and he states

there is no evidence of shooting on the statue, which means either the story is just another 'tall' story to discredit Thomas or that he was a terrible shot.

The native Irish Catholic naturally wouldn't have liked him and his confreres and the Established Protestant Church of Ireland might well have found a scapegoat in the form of one individual for the all the misery that they had heaped onto the local population though Thomas himself seems to have been of a truculent and bellicose nature.

#### A Chester Refugee

Towards the end of his long life we have an account of Thomas travelling in 1689 as a Chester Refugee from Sligo in NW Ireland to Chester in NW England. He was accompanying a young woman and child, who may well have been his daughter-in-law and grandson at the time. At this time the forces of the Protestant King William of Orange from Holland were in Ireland and would eventually win the Battle of the Boyne. This would be no time to be a Protestant trapped in NW Ireland by Catholic forces.

At any rate King William won or 'Billy' as he was more popularly known, the English continued to rule Ireland and the Sodens carried on as landowners under the Settlement and in civic office.

#### The Last Laugh

As it turns out Thomas may have gotten the last laugh. His long life is recorded in the deeds for the land, the roll of the Chester Refugees and most impressively on the Plaque in the foyer of the Church of Ireland church at Drumcliffe, Co. Sligo.

Requiescat in pace.

Sources: -

In the Shadow of Ben Bulbin, by Joe McGowan, Aeolus Press, 1993, pp. 43 ff.

1661-2 Book of Survey and Distribution 1/CI/20

Plaque in the foyer of the Church of Ireland, Drumcliffe, Sligo

1655 Hearth Money Rolls , Analecta Hibernica, McLysaght

1655

The Down Survey otherwise

The Book of Survey and Distribution, 1641-1661

Thomas Sodden is listed as a new proprietor

page 90, volume 6

Wood-Martin, History of Sligo

## Documents in the Folklore Commission from 1938 in UCD

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### Chapter 78

#### 'Tall' Stories 14

##### Roberta Violet Soden Machnik

Roberta, who was born on December 21, 1920, died peacefully at her home in St. Bruno, QC., November 3, 2021. She lived to be 100 years old! Roberta was predeceased by her husband Stan in 2016, and is survived by her four children, Stephen (Wendy), Joan (Fofana), Paul (Bess) and Philip; her four grandchildren, Kika (Dimitri), Jasper (Brigitte), Simon (Pam), and Maica (Mitch); and her two greatgrandchildren, Luca, and Vienna. She was predeceased by her brother James Arthur Soden. Her father, Robert Bowden Soden, was an Irish immigrant to Canada. Her mother, Violet McNamara Soden, grew up in Bedford QC. Roberta obtained her B.A. at Marguerite Bourgeois in 1941, and during the war worked at DIL, Marconi, and Ayerst. Roberta and Stan were both impacted by the years of the depression, the loss of two of her uncles in WWI, and by her own father's health, which was affected by the same war. As a result, they were both led to create the Thomas More Institute, along with three other founding members in 1945. These were small group, discussion-oriented, university-level courses. They were designed particularly for returning veterans and later for diverse groups of business, labour, and seniors. Degrees were originally granted by the Université de Montréal and later by Bishop's University. They served thereafter in a leadership capacity for more than seventy years and until recently Roberta held the position of governor. In 1956 Roberta and Stan received Hungarian refugees into their community and their home and taught them English. She was the first female School Commissioner in the Catholic system in Quebec (1960-72). She received the Order of Merit from the Catholic School Commission in 1967, and they both received the City of St. Bruno's Ordre du Merit in 1986. In addition, she and Stan were involved in the creation of St. Augustine's parish in St. Bruno, for which they cared deeply. After she completed her B.A., she had the option of continuing her studies in the medical field but preferred to focus on education and family. Because of her rare appreciation for the humanities and natural sciences, Fr. Eric O'Connor, the director at TMI, asked her to lead the scientific based courses. She was also a member of TMI's Research Institute and received certificates for her work in mathematics, Bernard Lonergan, and Eric Voegelin.

Roberta was loved by many and returned that love with a life-long devotion to education. She will be greatly missed especially by her children for her love, sense of humour, and her very perceptive mind. After seventy-two years of marriage, we imagine that she will be happy to be reunited with the love of her life. She will also be missed by the hundreds of people whose lives she impacted, through the Thomas More, teachers, her church, and people in the community. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of choice. Your prayers are appreciated. We also thank our sister Joan's very loving care of our mother during these last years. A reception will be held at the Coopérative funéraire du Grand Montréal, 635, boul. Curé-Poirier Ouest, Longueuil (Qc), J4J 2H8, Tuesday, November 18 from 4-8 p.m. (Masks are required). A commemorative mass will be held December 11, 11 a.m. at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, 105 rue de Cherbourg, St. Bruno.

Obituary given by Marg Soden, Toronto, Canada

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Chapter 79  
'Tall' Stories 15

Chapter 79  
'Tall' Stories 15

[ Picture above: - TERENCE SODEN, 1912 - 2006, son of GWC Soden, 1873 - 1929, and direct descendant of Clotworthy Soden , 1736 - 1814, of Londonderry reading to Kristina and Carla Soden on his visit to our home for the Soden Reunion in Sligo in June 2000 with his wife, Jean.]

George Wensley Clotworthy Soden, 1873 - 1929

English Members : Major Watherston, Captain des Voeux, R.E. , Captain Soden, R.M. Fus.

French members: M. Delafosse ,le Capitaine Bouvet ,le Lieu

[Father of GWC Soden at Dunlaoire Harbour with a friend]

Profile of Major George Wensley Clotworthy Soden

Special Reserve of Officers and Provincial Commissioner of Ashanti

1873 Born in Dublin,Ireland.

1894/5 Joined 3rd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers as Second Lieutenant

1895/4 Promoted Lieutenant

1895/9 Obtained the Hythe Extra Certificate Musketry

1897/8 Promoted to Captain

1898/4 Obtained the P.S.Certificate

Attached to the following Regiments;

2nd North Staffordshire Regiment

1894-99 1st. Yorkshire Light Infantry

Welsh Regiment

Durham Light Infantry

King's Liverpool Regiment

1899/5 Musketry Instructor to the 3rd Battalion Munster Fusiliers

1899/7 Inspector in the Gold Coast Constabulary

1900/9 Appointed the Travelling Commissioner of the Gold Coast Colony

1900/10-12 Commissioner of British Gaman

During the Ashanti Campaign of 1900 he was Officer Commanding British Gaman Detachment and held the only independent command of troops in Ashanti from that of Major-General Sir James Wilcox K.G.M.G. who commanded the Ashanti Field Force.

Granted the Ashanti Medal

1901/11-1903/5 Appointed one of the British Commissioners on the British/French Boundary Commission

1904/1-9 Commissioner of Ester Akin & Ewahu

1904/9-1905/4 Commissioner of Southern Ashanti

1905/11-1906/4 Delimited the boundary between the Gold Coast Colony and Ashanti

1906/4 Appointed Provincial Commissioner of Ashanti

1909/12 Temporarily retired.

Major G.W.C.Soden was seconded from the 3rd Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers for Colonial Employment in July 1899 for a period of 5 years,and was again seconded in July,1904 for a further period of five years. He was transferred to the Special Reserve of Officers in September 1908 and was promoted to the rank of Major in March,1909.

He died 1929/10/4 and is buried in Deansgrange Cemetery,Dublin, plot F92.

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## The Soden Family of Parma , Ohio, USA : A Tragic Story

Here follows the newspaper account of the tragic deaths of 3 Sodens, originally from Ohio, who died in New York.

The article is from the New York Times, 27th September, 1908. Would these Sodens be related to Lt. Aloysius Soden, USN?

### Soden Deaths

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